MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

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MCG PROGRAMS

There will be no MCG meeting in September. On October 19, our speaker will be Chelsea Clarke, Branch Manager of the Mary B. B. Croutch Genealogy Library of the Cass County Library in Harrisonville, Missouri. Her topic will be "Immigrant Ancestor Research". On November 16, Beth Foulk will present"Where Did You Come From, Missouri Settlers". We are looking forward to both of these presentations, and you will want to put these dates on your calendar.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

September used to be the start of the school year. However, many schools are now starting in the middle of August. My first year of school was in September, 1948 at Bryant School in Rich Hill, Missouri, although my parents, Albert Frank and Mildred Catherine (Janssens) Morse, had tried to get me into first grade in 1947. I was born January 3, 1942, and they stopped admitting new students for the school year who were 6 after December 31. Of course, that has even changed now. For many districts, the entrance date for enrollment of 6 year old new students in the first grade is September 30. On my first day, there were too many of us first graders for each to have a chair. So I stood or sat around the edge of the room. We had a full day of school, but on day two, about half of the students followed another teacher to another room. I got to stay in the room with Mrs. Copeland, but then, I had my own desk. I attended all twelve years of school in the same building. All of the elementary rooms were on the first floor, and most of the junior high and senior high rooms were on the second floor. The cafeteria was in the basement. When I became a seventh grader, I used the stairs, and I had a locker in which to store my books since I had to move from room to room. Also, beginning in seventh grade, I had physical education classes. The locker room was downstairs. We had a gymnasium-auditorium. There was a basketball court with bleachers on the east side and a stage on the west side. When there were school plays, concerts, or graduations, folding chairs were set on the gym floor. This is also where the junior-senior banquet was held. The junior class decorated the gym and set up the table decorations. This was always a big event in the school year. As a junior, I sat with a couple of other guys who did not have dates. As a senior, I attended the banquet with Dorothy Jean Newcomb, and, of course, we eventually married.

The first two years of school, I rode the school bus. Then the district only let those living more than a mile from school ride the bus. We were barely less than a mile from school so my brother, Carl, and I walked. Carl was one year younger than I. For a year or two, we walked home for lunch and walked back because everyone had one hour for lunch. They finally did away with this rule, so everyone stayed in the building and had lunch in the cafeteria, whether you bought a lunch or brought your own lunch. When my mother started working in the cafeteria, my brother and I bought our lunch. My mother eventually became head of the cafeteria and continued for many years after I graduated.

When Carl and I got our bicycles, we rode them to school. We parked them in the yard of our grandparents, whose home was one block east of the school. We saw and visited a lot with Clark Frank and Alma Dona (Miller) Morse every school day. When I got my drivers license in the summer of 1958, I drove Carl and Mom to school. The next year, Carl and I alternated with the driving. Dad

either walked to work or Carl or I drove him there as he reported to work about 6:30 in the morning.

The classes that I enjoyed most were mathematics classes. I took algebra as a freshman, geometry as a sophomore, and algebra II and trigonometry as a junior. There were no more math classes, so I took bookkeeping as a senior. As the year progressed, I thought about becoming an accountant. But, working for a small business in the summer of 1960 following my graduation, I decided that I wanted nothing to do with the business world.

Beginning in September, 1960, I enrolled in Central Missouri State College, now the University of Central Missouri, in Warrensburg, Missouri. I started off with mathematics classes. My sophomore year I decided that I wanted to give education a try. I received my Bachelor of Science degree in education and started teaching in the Independence, Missouri Public School District in September, 1963. For the next thirty-one years, I taught Junior High mathematics and then senior level math courses of trigonometry, math analysis, analytic geometry, and calculus. Plus, I became involved with a program called Mathematics & Physics Institute. This program taught college level calculus and physics to high school seniors from different school districts at a building in Independence, only a half mile from William Chrisman High School. Two University of Missouri at Kansas City professors were our lead teachers. So when I retired from full time teaching, I continued for two hours a day in this special programs for four more years. This made me a teacher for thirty-five years. So, from 1948 to 1998, I was in school.

FINDING YOUR STORIES IN BOOKS FREE ONLINE: SEARCHING INTERNET ARCHIVE LIBRARIES (PART 1)

Julia Morse

I enjoyed visiting with you all at the August meeting. Thank you for letting me share my favorite places to find those old county histories, biographies, and family genealogy books! As promised, here are some links and quick instructions for you.

The major online collection of libraries that I shared was "Internet Archive," also known as Archive.org.
It contains fully photographed books from major libraries all over North America (and beyond). Most of these books are also provided in OCR text format, and in downloadable PDF, ePub, and other formats for those of you who are eBook readers.

You can go directly to the Archive.org site to search their libraries for books of interest. The main entry page to Archive.org has an "Internet Archive" search bar in the middle of the page, similar to Google Search. I recommend clicking on "Advanced Search", which gives you control to filter out results that you don't want:

- In Advanced Search, find the "MediaType" and change it from "All MediaTypes" to "Texts". This will limit the search to just digitized books and documents (not rock bands, sermons, alternative radiocasts, etc.)
- Decide if you are looking for a word in the title, or any field (which would include subjects).

Note that this type of search is like searching the card catalog information of all the books from the Archive.org libraries. (Archive.org calls this "metadata".) It does not search the full text of the book. This is a good search technique to use if you want to find books that have the words "Bates Missouri History" or "Bates Missouri Biography" in the title, or books that contain the family name (such as "Woodfin") in the Title. It would not help you find books that contain the family name, Woodfin, incidentally somewhere in the text.

- What if you want to search Archive.org for any books that mention your family name somewhere in the book—not necessarily in the title? For example, you want to see any book that has the name, "Woodfin", and the word "Missouri". Archive.org provides

a search option “Search Text Contents” (instead of the default “Search Metadata”).

The “Search Text Contents” option appears on the main search page as soon as you click to type into the search bar, but, oddly, it does not initially appear in the Advanced Search page. That’s okay; just go ahead and do the Advanced Search of “Any Field”. After you execute this initial search, then it will give you the option to refine your search, INCLUDING the option to change to “Search Text Contents”.

So, for example, if I first do an Advanced Search of the words “Bates Missouri Woodfin”, specifying Mediatype “texts”, the search returns with no results, because it was looking only at the “metadata” card catalog information, and there were no books with all these words in the title or author information. But at that point, I have an option to change from “Search metadata” to “Search text contents”. Now, I click “Go” to re-run the search, and I get lots of books which contain the words “Woodfin,” “Bates,” and “Missouri”.

I can look through this list, but since it is giving me a lot of “Bates” names that aren’t Bates County, I can further refine the search by changing the word Bates in the search bar to the phrase “Bates County” in quotation marks. Now, I get books that have the phrase “Bates County” and the name Woodfin and the word Missouri. These are more the kind of books I would like to look at.

One common confusion on Archive.org: Skip the ”Wayback Machine” search box, which you may see at the top of the Archive.org page before you find the Internet Archive search box. (The Wayback Machine is something totally different than the Internet Archive books-type libraries. It is a way to retrieve archived web pages that once were available on the Internet but no longer are available.)

Next month, space permitting, I will provide some tips on reading and searching within the books you find on Internet Archive.

2020 U.S. CENSUS

One of our most frequently used records in our family history research is the U.S. Census. In April, 2020, the process to prepare the 2020 Census will begin . In addition, we will again be able to trace our families in a newly released Census, the 1950 Census, in 2022.

Many of us began our family research with more current Census records as we began to trace our family lines. Then, we moved back by decade and generations through the earlier records. Before 1850, only the head of household was listed, and other family members were listed by sex and age. Ages used in the earliest records are not very specific. In the 1850 Census, all family members are listed individually for the first time with their families. Some of us who began our research in the 1980s and 1990s began our search with the 1920 Census. In 2002, the 1930 Census was released publicly, and the 1940 Census was released for public viewing in 2012. It is important for all of us to participate fully in this process for reasons stated below and for the benefit of future family researchers who will continue to add to our family records.

“The census has been taken every ten years since the early days of the United States of America. Although the U.S. Census Bureau carries out hundreds of surveys every year, its mostwell-known duty is still to conduct the decennial census. Census results have several high profile applications: they are used to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives, to realign congressional districts, and as a factor in the formulas that distribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funds each year. Because of the importance of this population count, procedural changes in the decennial census often reflect larger organizational shifts at the Census Bureau.

Individual census records from 1790 to 1940 are maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration, not the U.S. Census Bureau. Decennial census records are confidential for 72

years to protect respondents' privacy. Records from the 1950 to 2010 censuses can only be obtained by the person named."
The Dicennial Census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution in Article 1, Section 2: The U.S. has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.

"Your privacy matters.
Every employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life. When you respond to the census, your answers are kept anonymous. They are used only to produce statistics. The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.
By law, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. That's protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code". (www.uscensus.gov)

USING USGENWEB

Marjorie Slavens

When my mother, Mildred Welty Slavens, began her family history research in the 1970s, she did not have the benefit of using Internet records. She spent many hours at the St. Louis Public Library using books and other records that were on reserve and could not be checked out, and she scheduled time to use U.S. Census records on microfilm. On the rare occasions when she visited my sister and her family in the Kansas City area, she spent as much time as she could at the Mid-Continent Library on 24 Highway. Time using the microfilm readers was usually very limited because the microfilm readers had to be shared. We traveled to libraries, including the DAR Library in Washington, D. C., genealogical societies, cemeteries, court houses etc, in Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, and there was never enough time to do everything we wanted to accomplish on these research trips. She wrote many letters to other researchers, libraries, and government agencies to obtain copies of records she needed for her research.

In 1996, I gave her a computer for her 86th birthday, and it made record keeping and book preparation much easier than when we had to use typewriters and travel to distant locations. Very quickly, she learned to use her computer with very little help from me because I lived 450 miles away, and my sister, who lived in this area, worked and did not have much time to help her learn this new device.

Early in her Internet research, she discovered USGenweb, www.usgenweb.org, and this expanded her research time because she could work at home. USGenweb is still quite active, although there are many other research sites that are available now. I currently have memberships with Ancestry, Archives.com, Fold3, Newspapers.com. All of these are paid sites, and more information is available on these sites than on USGenweb, but it is still free. There are volunteer state coordinators for each state and for each county in the states. The information available for the counties and states depends on the time, experience, and dedication of these state and county coordinators. We have been extremely fortunate to find some excellent coordinators on the sites of USGenweb in which we are interested.

One of my favorite county sites is the Henry County, Missouri site, of which Linda Everhart is the Coordinator. I have used this site more frequently in the past but had occasion to visit it again recently and continue to be very impressed with the extent of available information and the organization of the site.

Because of the MCG August presentation by Julia Morse about the availability of early county histories on Archives.org, I went back to Henry County to look at the 1883 Henry County History, in which the biography of my great great grandfather, George Washington Slavens, appears.

"Slavens, George Washington
Bethlehem Township, Henry County
born: Nov 23 1829, Scioto Co, OH
Source: *1883 History of Henry County Missouri,* National Historical Co pg Pg:792
George W. Slavens, farmer, section 33, owes his nativity to Scioto County, Ohio, where he was born November 23, 1829. While he was a small boy the family removed to Indiana, where they remained about eighteen months, going thence to Vermillion County, Illinois. In 1837 they came to Henry County, Missouri, locating on section 11, Bethlehem Township, and being among the early settlers here. George spent his boyhood days in following the plow, and attending the old log schools, which were then few and far between. He remained with the family till the summer of 1854, subsequently settling on his present farm of 260 acres, all of which is well improved and fenced. Mr. Slavens was united in marriage August 4, 1853, to Miss Nancy J. Parks, of Henry County, Missouri. They had six children, four of whom are living: Mary C., John R., Susan E. and Jessie. Mrs. S.'s death occurred in December, 1867. He was again married August 31, 1873, to Mrs. Agnes J. Nichols, whose maiden name was Parks. They had four children: Edna G., Effie B., Nannie and Charles S." (Son John Reuben is my great grandfather.)

Information in such county histories needs to be checked for accuracy because it was not verified for publication at that time.

Henry County Cemeteries are presented with great detail, some text references, and pictures. My great great grandfather, George Washington Slavens, his parents, John and Rebecca, and his second and third wives, Agnes and Sarah, and some children are buried in this cemetery. His first wife, Mancy Jane Parks Slavens and two children are buried in Parks Chapel Cemetery.

Bethlehem Cemetery
T41, R25, S30 - Bethlehem Township
175 SE 181 Rd, Henry County, Missouri
821 known burials from 1856 to 2016
active Landowner: Bethlehem Church Indexed by: Edwin Pogue 1995. Marker photos by Larry Spangler and Barbara Blum. (Foxwood resident)

SLAVENS, Agnes Jane PARKS NICHOLS - b: Mar 16 1845 - d: Feb 7 1883 - dau of John PARKS - 1st m: Mr. NICHOLS - ch: James P. - 2nd m: Aug 31 1873 to George Washington SLAVENS - ch: Edna Gertrude, Effie B., Nancy Elizabeth, Charles Stewart
SLAVENS, Charley

SLAVENS, Effie - b: Aug 12 1884 - d: Nov 23 1986

SLAVENS, Effie B. - b: Aug 18 1877 - d: Apr 23 1893 - dau of George Washington & Agnes Jane PARKS SLAVENS

SLAVENS, George Washington - b: Nov 23 1829 Scioto Co, OH - d: Jul 23 1907 Clinton, Henry Co, MO - bur: Jun 24 1907 - 77Y - son of John & Rebecca MEAD SLAVENS - 1st m: Aug 4 1853, Henry Co, MO to Nancy Jane PARKS - ch: Mary Calista, William P., John Reuben, Lillie May, Susan Ellen, Jessie Yantis - 2nd m: Aug 31 1873 to Agnes Jane PARKS - ch: Edna Gertrude, Effie B., Nancy Elizabeth, Charles Stewart - 3rd m: Mar 1 1885 to Sarah Elizabeth SETTLES BROWN SLAVENS (obit)

SLAVENS, John - b: Dec 28 1798 Bath Co, VA - d: Feb 17 1865 Henry Co, MO - son of Reuben & Sally Nancy KENNISON SLAVENS - Mary RUCKMAN
SLAVENS, Rebecca MEAD BRACE CRULL - b: Jun 2 1800 Tioga Co, NY - d: Dec 10 1881 Henry Co, MO - 1st m: Mr. BRACE - ch: Nancy Ann - 2nd m: Mr. CRULL - 3rd m: John SLAVENS - ch: George Washington, Margaret Melinda, Ruthette, Elizabeth

SLAVENS, Sarah Elizabeth SETTLES BROWN - b: Dec 20 1848 Pike Co, MO - d: Mar 15 1954 Clinton, Henry Co, MO - bur: Mar 17 1954 - 105Y 2M - dau of James & Louisa FIELDER SETTLES - 1st m: Monetha Alphonso BROWN - ch: Henry

Harrison, Frank, Claudius Allen - 2nd m: Mar 1 1885 to George Washington SLAVENS (obit)"

Linda Everhart encouraged us to send obituaries for the site and provided five obituaries from her collection for each obituary we submitted. The link on the Bethlehem Cemetery site takes us to the following obituary for my great great grandfather.

"SLAVENS, George Washington
1829-1907
Bethlehem Cemetery, Bethlehem Twp, Henry Co, MO
Clinton, MO, July 1907 - Buried Yesterday - The funeral of George Slavens, who died Tuesday night of old age, was conducted Wednesday, after which the body was laid to rest in Bethlehem Cemetery. Uncle George was one of Henry County's pioneer residents. - G. W. Slavens, who for some time has been in poor health, died at his home on East Ohio street Tuesday evening July 23, 1907, at 7:15. A native of Ohio and was born in Scioto County, November 23, 1829 and came to Henry County in 1837 and located in Bethlehem township, where he owned one of the best farms in the county. A few years ago he moved to Clinton and bought a neat cottage on East Ohio street. Married three times, and a devoted and heart-broken wife, with five children, by his first two wives survive him. A member of the Christian church and a man among men. Funeral at Bethlehem. Mr. Slavens came to Missouri with his parents when he was nine years old. In 1851, he, with his father and a number of others, went to California in search of gold but were unsuccessful. On returning home, he homesteaded some land and added to this from time to time until he owned one of the most pleasant and comfortable homes in Henry County. On August 4, 1853, he married Miss Nancy Jane Parks but, in a few years, death claimed her and he was left with six little ones. He had to taste the bitter cup so often in life. Two of these children, Willie and May, died in childhood and John R. died in California and left a wife and two children; the oldest, Mrs. Mary C. Ballard, lives in Washington, Mrs. Susan Crews in Liberty and Mrs. Jessie Parks in Henry County. Seven years later he married Mrs. Agnes Jane Nichols on August 31, 1873. She brought with her one son, James P. Nichols, who lives with his family near Brownington. This union had four children; Mrs. Edna G. Brown, who lives near Clinton; Effie B., who died at 16; Mrs. Nannie Brown and Chas. S. Slavens of Clinton. When the youngest of these was five weeks old, the mother was taken away. Mr. Slaven's widowed mother lived with him and one could see him going to her room three times a day to see if she was warm and comfortable. He was married March 1, 1885 to Mrs. Sallie Brown. They, with her three boys, Harry, Frank and Allie, and the four that were there always had a joyous welcome for the older children when they visited the dear old home and today ten children mingle their tears together for the loss of him who found great pleasure in making for them a pleasant and comfortable home."

On this site, we also found information about the brother and sisters of my great great grandfather and their families. In our early Internet research, we used USGenweb sites for other counties, good sources of local history, including Jasper County, Missouri, where we were able to post three biographies for my Great grandfathers, Henry Welty (1837, Ohio-1911), who came to Missouri in 1867, and Charles Merlin Kerr (1863, Illinois-1962), who came in 1865, and my great great grandfather, Jonathan Eppright, (1812, Maryland-1885), who came to Jasper County from Indiana by 1842. George Eppright, the second son of Jonathan and Edy Meadows Eppright, was the first white child born in Duval Township, Jasper County, Missouri. He was the brother of my great grandmother, Catharine Mary Eppright Welty.

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